St. Tammany Computer Association

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Contents

Meeting Programs p.1
Meeting Schedule p.1
Class Schedule p.2
iPad Quick Mute p.2
Preloaded Flash Drive p.3
Remove Password p.4
DVD /Blueray Discs p.6
Hard Drive Dying p.4
Flash Drive Plugged p.6
Laptop To A T.V p.7
Missing Volume Control p.9

God Bless America

July Program

Windows 7 and Glimpse on Windows 8
Don Hames

August Program

What's Inside your PC
Paul Parker

Did you ever wonder what is actually inside your PC? Have you heard the terms…Hard drives, DVD drive, memory, video card, mother-board, USB ports, sound card, and power source… but wondered what and where they were. Paul Parker is going to take all the mystery out of the inside workings of your computer.

September Program

How to Maneuver Around a Website

All meetings are held at the
St. Tammany Parish Military Complex
(old Levee Board Building), located at
61134 North Military Road in Slidell.

Meeting Schedule

Tuesday July 9, 2012
Meeting will start
Promptly
at 7 p.m.
(Please arrive by 6:45)

Sign in at the door
Get your "Freebie" Ticket
Buy your 50/50 Ticket

Questions will be addressed and answered
7:15 p.m.
Old and New Business

Windows 7 & Glimpse on Windows 8
Don Hames

Following the program will be the Drawings For the Door prize & 50/50 Raffle
Refreshments

New Members

Dave Frey
Marlene Gonzales
Joyce Ferrara
Diane Walther

STCA Class Schedule

1st Saturday…

Windows Vista/XP class:
Chapter 37 (pages 627-653) *Exploring the Internet with Vista & Internet Explorer;* – Paul Parker, Instructor.

Windows 7 class:

Chapter 6, *continuation of Email* – Danny Moragne, Instructor.

One-on-One session:

Meet with Shirley Sharpe for individual help. Shirley would like you to prior email or call her with your questions or problem area you want to cover. sharpe108@att.net or 285-3810.

2nd Tuesday…

This is our General Meeting night. The subject, ***"Managing Digital Photos,"*** is a free photo editing, organizing, printing and sharing program being presented by Shirley Sharpe.

Note: *Please come early to get signed in, obtain your blue/red tickets and be seated by 7 o'clock start time.*

3rd Tuesday…

Bring your questions for answers. - Danny Moragne, Instructor.

One-on-One session:

Meet with Shirley Sharpe for individual help. Shirley would like you to prior email or call her with your questions or problem area you want to cover. *sharpe108@att.net* or 285-3810.

Genealogy sig:

Roberta Stepan or Leonard Middlebrooks will lead the discussion. Roberta will email you details.

4th Tuesday…

Windows Vista/XP class:

Chapter 37 (pages 627-653) *Exploring the Internet with Vista & Internet Explorer;* – Paul Parker, Instructor.

Windows 7 class:

Chapter 6, *continuation of Email* –Danny Moragne, Instructor.

One-on-One session:

Meet with Shirley Sharpe for individual help. Shirley would like you to prior email or call her with your questions or problem area you want to cover. **sharpe108@att.net** or 285-3810

STCA Mailboxes:
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stca.webmaster@gmail.com
stca.newsletter@gmail.com

STCA is a non-profit organization. The goal of the association is to share information and to help educate the public in the use of personal computers. Members range from experienced to beginners. Programs feature topics and subjects of interest to the general membership with emphasis on basic computer skills. Member and guest speakers provide demonstrations, lectures, questions, answers and, on occasion, hands-on experience.

iPad Quick Mute

Did you know that there's a quick way to mute all sound on your iPad? All you need to do is **press and hold the Volume Down button** on the side and it'll mute the sound completely in two seconds!

It's much faster than rapidly pressing volume down, lowering the volume one tick at a time. So next time you're playing a game or watching a movie and someone comes up and starts talking to you, you have a quick fix for silence. Give it a try!

How can I remove a password in Windows 7 other than using an independent software?

If you know the password and don't want to use one, or if you've forgotten the password, here are the directions for removing both.

If you know the password, but don't want to have to enter it when you log in you can easily remove it.

Click on the **Start** button, then **control panel**. Now click on **Add/Remove User Accounts**, and then click on the account name you want to remove the password from. Click **Remove the password,** type in the password and click **Remove password**.

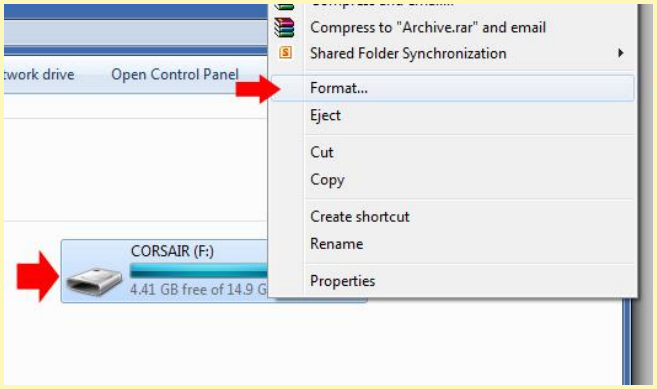
Next time you log in when you click on that user it will log you right in.

Many flash drives come pre-loaded with a small amount of software. Is it safe to delete this if you plan to use the flash drive only for storage?

That really depends on the kind of software on the flash drive.

If the flash drive comes with free applications/games/trials: This kind of software is ok to remove since it's not directly tied to how the flash drive functions. The best way to remove this software is to reformat the flash drive before you begin using it.

Step 1.) Plug in the flash drive and open My Computer (or Computer for Windows 7 users) and right click on the flash drive (Usually drive letter E or higher in this example it's drive F) and left click **format**.

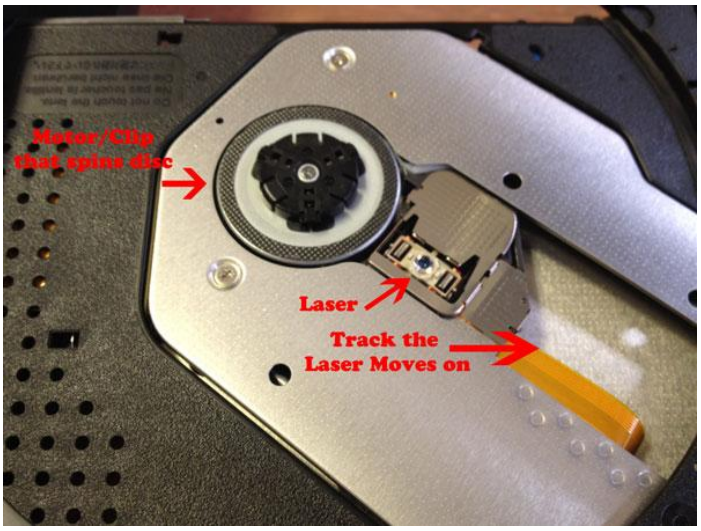


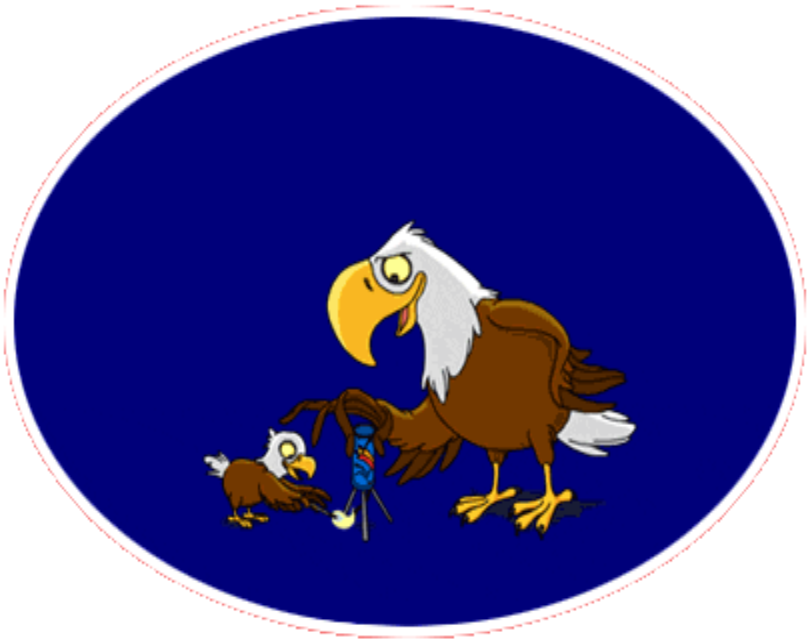
Step 2.) You can change the drive's label (the name that comes up next to drive letter) and click Start. **This will reformat the drive and wipe out everything on it**. Once it is complete, the drive will be ready to use without any software wasting space.

Why do DVD/CD/Blueray Discs spin in your computer/player?

Optical Media (DVD/CD/Bluray) store information by burning or pressing very tiny pits on the surface of the disc. Your computer or player then shines a very narrow laser beam up at the disc and reads where a pit exists and where one doesn't and translates that into the 0's and 1's (Binary) that a computer or electronic device can understand.

In order to read just the right pits your computer or player wants (Like a specific Song or part of a movie) the laser needs to move to just the right part of the disc. Just like a record player the creators of optical media realized that if you spin the disc around you can move the laser up and down a track and be able to read every part of the disc as it spins around. This spinning optical media allowed players to be much smaller and allows the information to be encoded in circles on the disc to be read very quickly as it passes over the laser.





Happy 4th of July

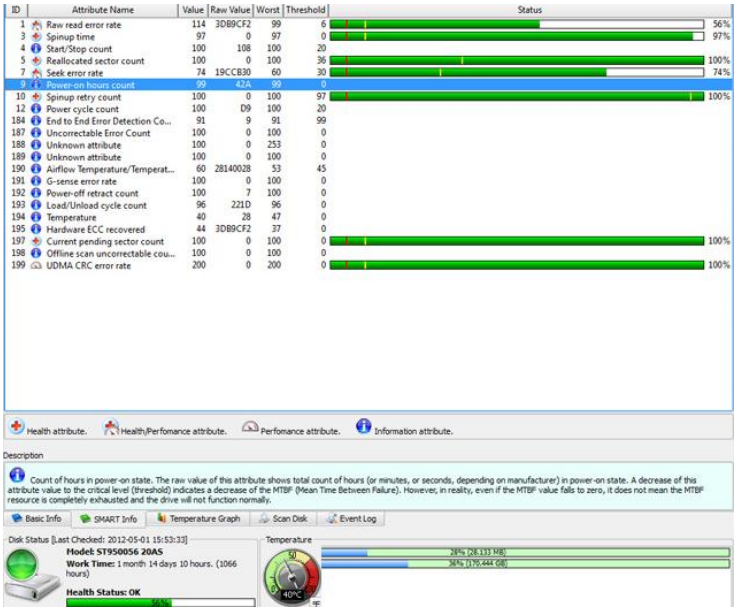
Two guys one old, one young are pushing their carts around Wal-Mart when they collide. The old guy says to the young guy, "Sorry about that.. I'm looking for my wife, and I guess I wasn't paying attention to where I was going."
The young guy says, "That's OK, it's a coincidence. I'm looking for my wife, too...I can't find her and I'm getting a little desperate."
The old guy says, "Well, maybe I can help you find her...what does she look like?" The young guy says, "Well, she is 27 yrs old, tall, with red hair, blue eyes, is buxom, wearing no bra, long legs, and is wearing short shorts."
"What does your wife look like?"
To which the first old guy says, "Doesn't matter, let's look for yours."

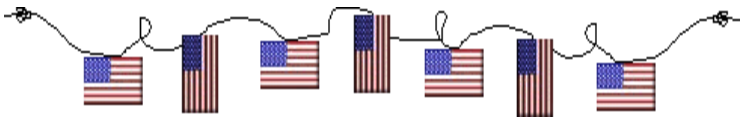
Is Your Hard Drive Dying? Should You Replace It.

Since hard drive failure is one of our greatest fears, does it make any sense to routinely replace a primary hard drive in an otherwise well functioning computer? If so, when and how?

Hard drive failure is a great fear, especially when you have thousands of photos, documents and songs that you can't easily replace.

The first step to good hard drive maintenance is to use a S.M.A.R.T. (short for Self Monitoring Analysis and Reporting Technology) reading program, which can give you an indication if your hard drive is experiencing errors or being exposed to very high heat – which is known to shorten the lifespan of the hard drive. Active@ makes a great utility called *Hard Disk Monitor* which allows you to read the S.M.A.R.T. status (and it even tells you what the numbers mean, and which numbers you want high or low). This utility is available as a 14 day free trial at **http://disk-monitor.com/**


ID | Attribute Name | Value | Raw Value | Worst | Threshold | Status
1 Raw read error rate 114 3DB9CF2 99 6 56%
3 Spinup time 97 0 97 0 97%
4 Start/Stop count 100 108 100 20
5 Reallocated sector count 100 0 100 36 100%
7 Seek error rate 74 19CCB30 60 30 74%
9 Power-on hours count 99 42A 99 0
10 Spinup retry count 100 0 100 97 100%
12 Power cycle count 100 D9 100 20
184 End to End Error Detection Co... 91 9 91 99
187 Uncorrectable Error Count 100 0 100 0
188 Unknown attribute 100 0 253 0
189 Unknown attribute 100 0 100 0
190 Airflow Temperature/Temperat... 60 28140028 53 45
191 G-sense error rate 100 0 100 0
192 Power-off retract count 100 7 100 0
193 Load/Unload cycle count 96 221D 96 0
194 Temperature 40 28 47 0
195 Hardware ECC recovered 44 3DB9CF2 37 0
197 Current pending sector count 100 0 100 0 100%
198 Offline scan uncorrectable cou... 100 0 100 0
199 UDMA CRC error rate 200 0 200 0 100%
Health attribute. Health/Perfomance attribute. Perfomance attribute. Information attribute.
Description
Count of hours in power-on state. The raw value of this attribute shows total count of hours (or minutes, or seconds, depending on manufacturer) in power-on state. A decrease of this attribute value to the critical level (threshold) indicates a decrease of the MTBF (Mean Time Between Failure). However, in reality, even if the MTBF value falls to zero, it does not mean the MTBF resource is completely exhausted and the drive will not function normally.
Basic Info SMART Info Temperature Graph Scan Disk Event Log
Disk Status [Last Checked: 2012-05-01 15:53:33]
Model: ST950056 20AS
Work Time: 1 month 14 days 10 hours. (1066 hours)
Health Status: OK
Temperature
50
40°C
28% (28.133 MB)
36% (179.444 GB)

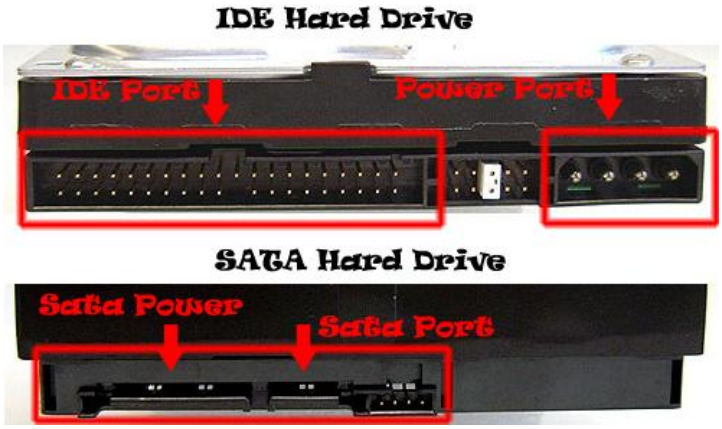


The second step is to try to fix anything that may be shortening your hard drive's lifespan.The big enemies of a hard drive, outside of inherit mechanical failure, are heat and power loss. Heat can be a result of a case that's filled with dust, animal hair and other things that have built up over the years.

The easiest way to clean your system out is to use compressed air and spray the fans, boards and components off. **If you're doing this, make sure not to spray any of the liquid compressed air, and take care to discharge any static on your body before touching computer components.**

You can fix the power loss issue by owning a high quality battery backup power protector (available in most office superstores starting at $50), which will prevent a power loss from causing a read/writer operating to fail – or worse, a hard drive to not return its write head to the resting position. Most modern hard drives automatically return to rest when there is a power loss, but why tempt fate?

The third step is to replace your hard drive before it dies. This is easier than you might think, and you can use modern drive cloning programs (such as **Laplink Diskimage**) to make an exact copy of your hard drive. On a desktop computer, it is as easy as plugging in the second hard drive into your machine, making a copy, then removing the old hard drive. The process is much the same for a laptop, except that you would need an external USB adapter to load the second hard drive to make the copy.



Once the copy is done, you remove the old hard drive and connect only the new one and your computer should be none the wiser happy with a brand new hard drive in it.

Note: Upgrading your hard drive is a great time to consider faster/bigger hard drives. Many desktops come with 5400 RPM drives, and while being cheaper they do not offer the performance of 7200 RPM drives or 10,000 RPM drives.

Does leaving my flash drive plugged in all the time wear it out quicker, or should I be plugging it in only when I need to copy something to it?

The wear and tear on flash drives comes from when data is being written to or read off of the device, not sitting idle.

One reason that it might be a good idea to disconnect the drive is in the event of electrical surge. If a surge is powerful enough to damage the components inside of your computer, it may also damage anything connected to the computer at the time. If your hard drive is fried in a lightning strike and your flash drive goes with it, you may have no backup left.

Connecting Your Laptop To A T.V. Screen

How can I hook up my laptop to my big screen TV so that I can talk to someone in another state? I have acquired an HDMI cable for this purpose, but I have no idea what else is needed or the steps to follow to make this happen.

With the prices on huge HD enabled, flat screen TVs always tumbling further down, you may want to connect your laptop to your TV when at home to have a bigger viewing area. Using your TV as an external monitor is a handy way to show something on your laptop to your whole family, to view computer games in a much larger format, or even to see video chat sessions on a bigger screen.

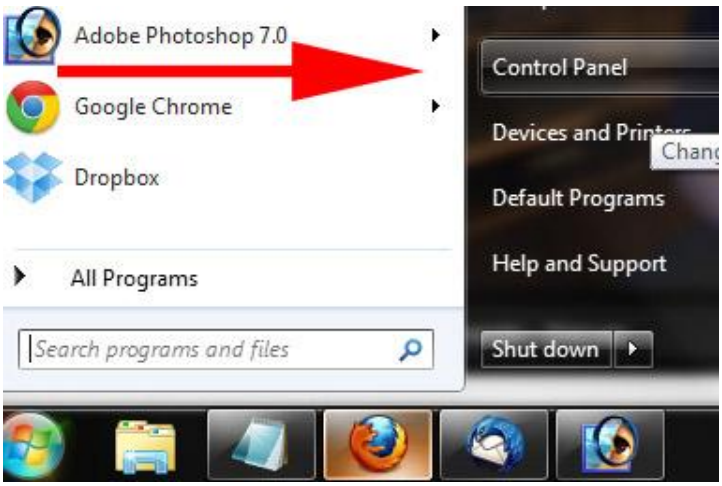
Connecting a laptop to your TV requires using the correct type of video cable, as not all TVs or laptop models support all cable connections. Attach the cable – whether it be S-Video, HDMI, DVI, or even VGA – **from the port on the side of your laptop to the corresponding port on the back or side of the TV**. If you aren't sure what ports your television has, check the manual or swivel the TV around to visually check the ports. Most new television models available support connecting S-Video cables (at the least) to offer connectivity with mobile devices like laptops. Keep in mind that **S-Video cables only allow the transfer of images and not sound**, so any audio or video file you play on your laptop will play through the computer's internal speaker and not through the television's sound system.

Many laptop models include a built-in shortcut for switching over to another monitor detected by the operating system. After connecting the cable, **tap the shortcut key combination**, which is generally the **"FN" and "F8"** keys pressed simultaneously. If this combination doesn't work, check your laptop's user manual or head over to the support website for your computer manufacturer to find out the key combination your computer model uses.

The Windows 7 operating system also has a built-in shortcut for switching between external monitors by tapping the **"Windows" key** (the key with the Windows picture positioned to the left of the "Alt" key) and the **"P" key together**. Tapping either the "FN" and "F8" or "Windows and "P" shortcut combinations more than once lets you cycle through the monitor options, which are:

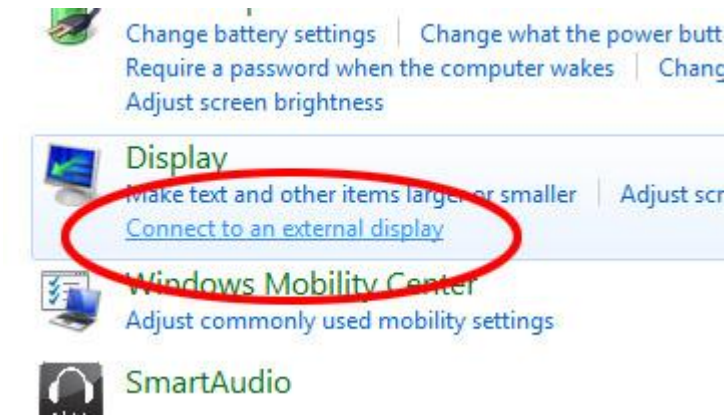
Laptop screen only
Duplicate image on both screens
Extend image across both monitors
External monitor only

Extending the image across both monitors means your desktop will be half on your laptop's screen and half on the TV, which is useful if you have many icons that need to be positioned on the desktop, or if you need to be able to view several different windows at once. In the event that your laptop doesn't have a keyboard shortcut, or you have changed the shortcut settings, you can instead manually change the external monitor settings by opening the **"Start" menu** and navigating to the **"Control Panel."**

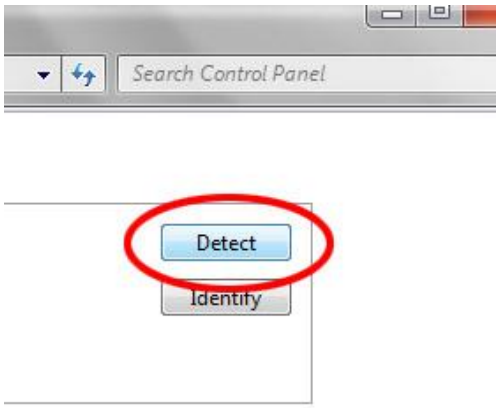


Inside the Control Panel window, click the green "Hardware and Sound" heading listed below the "Network and Internet" Heading.

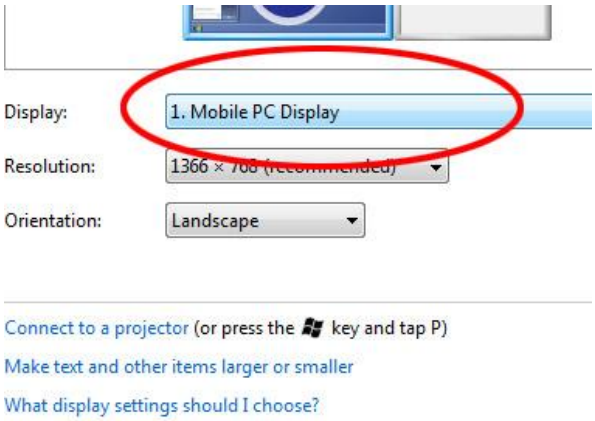
Locate the **green "Display" heading** listed above the "Windows Mobility Center" heading. Click the **blue link below** the "Display" heading labeled "Connect to an External Display."



Click the **"Detect" button** in the top-right corner of the window to detect your connected television as an external monitor.



Open the "Display" drop-down menu and select the option for your connected television. Open the **"Multiple Displays"** heading and select which of the four previously mentioned external display options you want to use, such as extending the display across both monitors or only using the external television.


Display:
1. Mobile PC Display
Resolution:
Orientation:
Landscape
Connect to a projector (or press the key and tap P)
Make text and other items larger or smaller
What display settings should I choose?

Open the **"Resolution" drop-down menu** and select the new resolution you want to use on your external display if your laptop's standard resolution doesn't look good on the TV. **Click "OK"** to save your changes to the monitor settings. When you are ready to switch back to your laptop screen, either use the previously mentioned keyboard shortcuts or return to the "Connect to an External Display" window and select your laptop's screen in the "Display" drop-down menu.

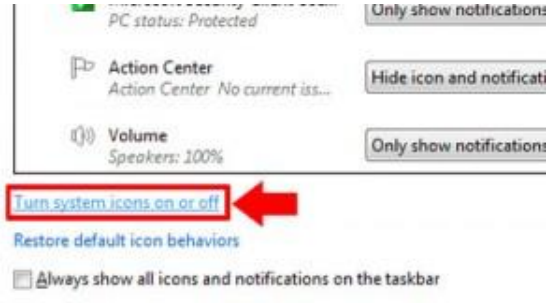
Missing Volume Control Icon

Hey, Windows 7 users. Have you ever lost your volume icon? You go to change your volume by using the little icon that sits in the bottom right hand corner of your desktop (right next to your clock) and it's nowhere to be found?

Well, If you're using Windows 7, the fix is easy! First, click the **Start** orb, and in the search box (which appears directly above), type **System icons**. This should populate a list. Click the one that says **"Customize icons on the taskbar."**

Control Panel (11)
3. Click this
Customize icons on the taskbar
Remove icons from notification area (system tray) on the deskt...
Show or hide inactive icons on the taskbar
Auto-hide the taskbar
Customize the taskbar
2. Type system icons in the search box...
See more results
system icons
Shut down
1. Click Start

In the next window, click **Turn system icons on or off**.



Long ago when men cursed
And beat the ground with sticks
It was called witchcraft….
Today, it's called GOLF!

Now, in this final window, make sure the dropdown box next to Volume is set for **On**.

Click **OK** when you're finished, and your volume icon should be restored!

Let there be PEACE on Earth and let it begin with me!